

Nolan Presents Military Medals to Vietnam War Veteran

Jun 17, 2014

(BRAINERD, MN) – Eighth District Congressman Rick Nolan presented Vietnam War veteran Rodney Dee Sullivan of Park Rapids with two long-awaited medals entitled to him for his service in the U.S. Navy.

“I’m honored to present Mr. Sullivan with these medals he earned while protecting and defending our country,” said Rep. Nolan. “Many thanks to Greg Remus of the Hubbard County Veterans Service Office for his hard work in helping us give Mr. Sullivan the proper honor and recognition he deserves for his brave service.”

Mr. Sullivan served from 28 October 1964 to 20 October 1964 as a second class machinist; his service included transporting Marine troops on the USS Pickaway during the famous Gulf of Tonkin Incident, when the United States and North Vietnam engaged in a sea battle in the gulf in August of 1964. After his service Mr. Sullivan attended college on the G.I. Bill, and worked as a district forester in Cook, MN, for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He later opened a private business as a logger in Park Rapids, where he is now retired.

After having worked closely with Hubbard County Veterans Service Officer Gregory Remus to correct Mr. Sullivan’s records with the National Personnel Records center, Congressman Nolan worked with Navy Personnel Command to present Mr. Sullivan with both the National Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Congressman Nolan presented Mr. Sullivan with these medals during a recent veterans round table in Brainerd, MN, one of several Rep. Nolan is holding throughout the Eighth District to discuss ongoing issues at the VA and how Veterans seeking assistance should contact Rep. Nolan’s Duluth office at (218) 464-5095.

National Service Medal:

The National Service Medal is awarded for honorable active military service as a member of the armed forces of the United States including the Coast Guard, between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954, (Korean War), between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974, (Vietnam War), between Aug. 2, 1990 to Nov. 30, 1995 (operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm), and currently from Sept. 11, 2001 to a date to be determined (terrorism attacks on the United States). Service members who earned the medal during the first qualifying period, and who again became entitled to the medal, wear a bronze star on the ribbon to denote the second award of the medal.

Vietnam Service Medal:

The Vietnam Service Medal is awarded to all service members of the Armed Forces who between July 4, 1965 and March 28, 1973, served in the following areas of Southeast Asia: in Vietnam and the contiguous waters and airspace; in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia or the airspace thereof and in the direct support of military operations in Vietnam. Personnel previously awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Vietnam between July 1958 and July 1965, may, upon request, exchange that medal for the Vietnam Service Medal; however, no one is authorized to wear both medals solely for services in Vietnam.